

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-14 (Canceled)

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): A resin composition comprising ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer (A), a thermoplastic resin (B) other than the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer (A), and a transition metal salt (C), wherein

the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer (A) is contained in an amount of 70 to 99.9% by weight and the thermoplastic resin (B) is contained in an amount of 0.1 to 30% by weight, an ethylene content ETa (mol%) and a degree of saponification SDa (%) of the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer (A) satisfy the following equations (1) and (2):

$$25 \leq ETa \leq 55 \quad (1)$$

$$90 \leq SDa < 99 \quad (2),$$

the thermoplastic resin (B) comprises a carbon-carbon double bond other than an aromatic carbon-carbon double bond, and

the transition metal salt (C) is contained in a ratio of 1 to 5000 ppm in terms of metal element, based on a total weight of the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer (A) and the thermoplastic resin (B).

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): A resin composition comprising ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer (A), a thermoplastic resin (B) other than the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer (A), and a transition metal salt (C), wherein

the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer (A) is contained in an amount of 70 to 99.9% by weight and the thermoplastic resin (B) is contained in an amount of 0.1 to 30% by weight,

the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer (A) comprises at least two kinds of ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymers (a1) and (a2),

ethylene contents ETa1 (mol%) and ETa2 (mol%) and degrees of saponification SDa1 (%) and SDa2 (%) of the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymers (a1) and (a2), respectively, satisfy the following equations (3) to (6):

$$25 \leq ETa1 \leq 55 \quad (3)$$

$$90 \leq SDa1 < 99 \quad (4)$$

$$25 \leq ETa2 \leq 55 \quad (5)$$

$$99 \leq SDa2 \quad (6),$$

a weight ratio (a1/a2) of the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymers (a1) and (a2) is 5/95 to 95/5,

the thermoplastic resin (B) comprises a carbon-carbon double bond other than an aromatic carbon-carbon double bond, and

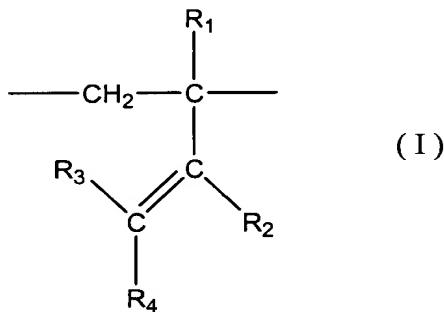
the transition metal salt (C) is contained in a ratio of 1 to 5000 ppm in terms of metal element, based on a total weight of the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer (A) and the thermoplastic resin (B).

Claim 17 (Canceled)

Claim 18 (Original): The resin composition of claim 16, wherein the transition metal salt (C) comprises at least one transition metal selected from the group consisting of iron, nickel, copper, manganese, and cobalt.

Claim 19 (Original): The resin composition of claim 16, wherein the thermoplastic resin (B) comprises a carbon-carbon double bond in a ratio of 0.0001 eq/g or more.

Claim 20 (Original): The resin composition of claim 16, wherein the thermoplastic resin (B) comprises a unit represented by formula (I)



wherein R₁ is a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms, R₂ is a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an aryl group, an alkylaryl group, an arylalkyl group or an alkoxy group, R₃ and R₄ are each independently a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an aryl group that can be substituted, -COOR₅, -OCOR₆, an cyano group or a halogen atom, and R₅ and R₆ are each independently an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an aryl group, an alkylaryl group, an arylalkyl group or an alkoxy group.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The resin composition of claim 16, wherein a number average molecular weight of the thermoplastic resin (B) is 1000 to 500000.

Claim 22 (Original): The resin composition of claim 16, wherein the thermoplastic resin (B) comprises an aromatic vinyl compound unit and a diene compound unit.

Claim 23 (Original): The resin composition of claim 22, wherein the diene compound unit is at least one of an isoprene unit and a butadiene unit.

Claim 24 (Original): The resin composition of claim 22, wherein the aromatic vinyl compound unit is a styrene unit.

Claim 25 (Original): The resin composition of claim 22, wherein the thermoplastic resin (B) is a block copolymer.

Claim 26 (Original): The resin composition of claim 16, wherein the thermoplastic resin (B) is a styrene-isoprene block copolymer.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The resin composition of claim 16, wherein a difference in refractive index between the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer (A) and the thermoplastic resin (B) is 0.01 or less, and wherein the refractive index of the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer (A) is an average that is calculated based on the weight ratio of the at least two kinds of ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymers (a1) and (a2).

Claim 28 (Original): The resin composition of claim 16, wherein particles of the thermoplastic resin (B) are dispersed in a matrix of the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer (A).

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): A resin composition comprising ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer (A), a thermoplastic resin (B) other than the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer (A), and a transition metal salt (C), wherein

the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer (A) is contained in an amount of 70 to 99.9% by weight and the thermoplastic resin (B) is contained in an amount of 0.1 to 30% by weight,

the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer (A) comprises at least two kinds of ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymers (a1) and (a2),

ethylene contents ETa1 (mol%) and ETa2 (mol%) and degrees of saponification SDa1 (%) and SDa2 (%) of the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymers (a1) and (a2), respectively, satisfy the following equations (3) to (6):

$$25 \leq ETa1 \leq 55 \quad (3)$$

$$90 \leq SDa1 < 99 \quad (4)$$

$$25 \leq ETa2 \leq 55 \quad (5)$$

$$99 \leq SDa2 \quad (6),$$

a weight ratio (a1/a2) of the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymers (a1) and (a2) is 5/95 to 95/5,

the thermoplastic resin (B) comprises a carbon-carbon double bond other than an aromatic carbon-carbon double bond,

the transition metal salt (C) is contained in a ratio of 1 to 5000 ppm in terms of metal element, based on a total weight of the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer (A) and the thermoplastic resin (B), and

an oxygen absorption rate of the resin composition is $0.01 \text{ ml/m}^2 \cdot \text{day}$ or more.

Claims 30-33 (Canceled)

Claim 34 (Original): A multilayered structure comprising at least one layer made of the resin composition of claim 16.

Claim 35 (Original): A multilayered container comprising at least one layer made of the resin composition of claim 16 and at least one thermoplastic polyester layer.

Claim 36 (Original): The multilayered container of claim 35, wherein two thermoplastic polyester layers are arranged so as to be in direct contact with both surfaces of the layer made of the resin composition.

Claim 37 (Original): A co-injection blow molded container having a multilayered structure, in which two thermoplastic polyester layers are arranged so as to be in direct contact with both surfaces of a layer made of the resin composition of claim 16.